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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Unit 9th Bn The Cameronians

(Scottish Rifles)

Month and Year JULY 1944

Commanding Officer Lt Col R.M. Villiers

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
GRAINVILLE SUR ODON	1	0515 0700	Bn handing over Coy locations at GRAINVILLE-SUR-ODON to 158 Bde 53 Div as per APP A/1-2-3. During evening of 30th at last light, Bn positions should have been relieved. This was delayed owing to congestion of traffic routes and handing over was completed at 0530 when Bn Veh and Marching parties left GRAINVILLE-SUR-ODON for area LES SAULLETS 900704. Bn arrived area LES SAULLETS 900704, and spent remainder of day resting.	APP. A1. CNB " A2. CNB CNB CNB
	2	0915 1015	O Gp at Bn H.Q. for local defence ☉ All weapons to be sited and dug in by morning of 3 JULY ☉ Coy comds to recce areas allocated. Memorial Church parade for men fallen in action. Brig C.M. Barber D.S.O was present at this service and complimented troops on their fine action during last operation. Remainder of day spent in adm and re-organising Coys and specialist Pl.	CNB CNB CNB
	3	0800 1100	Coys in defence areas and completing digging weapon slits. Major General G.H.A. MacMillan K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C. comd 15(S) Div visited Bn and complimented Bn on its fine spirit and actions during last operation.	CNB
	4		Bn still located LES SAULLETS ☉ Training being carried out on lessons learned during last action.	
	5	1100	Rfts arrived Bn from 32 R.H.U. 5 off 118 OR. CDN.257 Lt Miller CDN.359 Lt Russell CDN346 Lt McEwan CDN267 Lt R.V. Thompson and posted to Coys as shown on AF 3008.	CNB CNB
	6	1400 1600	Training carried out in area re lessons learned in last action. Also adm. and generally bringing Bn to War Standard again. 46 Bde Op Instr. No 5 issued. Commanding Officer to 6 KOSB to visit General Sir Bernard Montgomery. 1 off rft arrived from 32 RHU. 273225 Lt O.C Muir.	APP A4 CNB

		1700	C.O. "O" Gp ☉ Gave Coy comd the general position in NORMANDY from information given by General Sir Bernard Montgomery.	CNB
		2200	Message from Brig C.M. Barber comd 46 Bde. Possibility of Bn relieving 159 Bde of 53 Div on FRIDAY 7 JULY 44. Bn recce Gp would be prepared to move at short notice after 1200 hrs 7 JULY 44.	CNB
	7	0800	Ref last message of 2200 hrs 6 JULY. Now cancelled. Bn remains present location.	CNB
LES SAULLETS	8	0900 1100	C.O. at Bde HQ for next op. C.O. at Bde 'O' Gp at pt 920654 where briefed by Brig CM Barber ☉ 46 Inf Bde to come under comd 43 DIV for their attack on R ODON S.W. of CAEN ☉ 9th CAMERONIANS to advance behind 4th DORSETS and relieve them on their objective ETTERVILLE 9864. 7 SEAFORTH - ORCHARDS 9865. 2 GLASGOW HIGHLANDERS ROCRENIL 982647. Bn to remain present location until morning 10 JULY 44. F.A.A. area MOUEN 9365. F.U.P. FONTAINE ETOUPEFOUR 9664. Remainder of day spent in recce routes and areas.	CNB APP A/4B CNB CNB
	9	1130	C.O. 'O' Gp. Bn to move 0215 hrs 10 JULY for MOUEN. Zero hour for 43 Div attack 0500 ☉ Bn to be prepared to move to take over ETTERVILLE at 0700. C.O. recce Gp to R.V. CHURCH in FONTAINE-ETOUPEFOUR then to move fwd to ETTERVILLE ☉ Remainder of Bn then would be brought up when required by Wireless.	CNB CNB
	10	0215 0430 0715 0915 1030 1830 2000	Bn marching and veh parties passed S.P. for F.A.A. (MOUEN). Bn arrived area MOUEN. Bn left MOUEN for F.U.P. Bn now in F.U.P. area NE edge of FONTAINE-ETOUPEFOUR and commenced digging in. This area was being heavily mortared and shelled and Bn suffered many casualties ☉ Commanding Officer had now moved fwd to ETTERVILLE. Bn now moved Fwd to ETTERVILLE and took over Coy localities as shown in APP. Immediately Bn was in position they were engaged by hy mortar and shell fire ☉ This continued throughout the day and casualties were still inflicted. Information received that the Bn of the 43 DIV whose obj was MALTOT had been counter attacked and pushed back to area CHAU DE FONTAINE and that counter attacks could be expected on our front. Recce party from 'C' Coy under MAJ. BINGLEY went FWD through 'B' Coy to ORCHARD where they were observed and fired on by enemy tanks ☉ Major Bingley was wounded in the arm.	CNB CNB CNB CNB CNB

		2230	<p>This information was reported to Bn HQ and Coys ordered to "STAND TO" ☉ About this time Lt Col RM Villiers was wounded by shrapnel from a mortar bomb on the forehead. He still carried on commanding the Bn ☉ Mjr Downie comd 'B' Coy was wounded; MAJOR CLARKE WOUNDED and evacuated.</p> <p>Major Bingley, whose wound was NOT serious took over 2I/C Bn.</p> <p>B Coy reported an enemy recce party strength 6 fwd of their Coy position ☉ They were engaged by a tank and destroyed.</p>	CNB
		2300	<p>Enemy patrol spotted by A & B Coys approx 40-50 strong sup by 3-4 tanks on A Coy right flank ☉ Tanks engaged by SHERMANS and three knocked out ☉ At this time several of the houses in the village were set alight by enemy shell fire and visibility was very good. The enemy inf still adv. and made strong efforts to infiltrate between A & B Coys who accounted for 20 & 12 enemy respectively. The remainder did manage to infiltrate, but D Coy opened on them and hit a further two. The enemy inf then laid a smoke screen and retired under cover of it. During the remainder of the night mortar and shelling by enemy was continuous.</p>	CNB
				CNB
	11	0130	<p>Major Davies of the 2 GLASGOW HIGHLANDERS arrived to take over command of the Bn, as Lt Col R.M. Villiers was by this time beginning to feel the effects of the wound on his forehead. At approx the same time one of the Bn signallers arrived at Bn HQ and said that he had been to D Coy HQ and that it was deserted, the only person being the Coy comd Captain Baldwin who was lying in a slit trench moaning.</p>	CNB
		0200	<p>Carrier patrol sent out on foot to D Coy area consisting of 1 sgt (BALDWIN) and 1 sec. who occupied D Coy area and discovered that 18 pl was still in position. This was reported to C.O. and he sent out another carrier sec to thicken up the defence. This was about 0245 hrs. The situation at this time was confused and Mjr DAVIES asked permission from BRIG. C.M. BARBER for 1 Coy of GLASGOW HIGHLANDERS to be sent to Bn, to generally secure the position ☉ This was granted at 0350 and Glasgow HIGHLANDERS (1 Coy) arrived at 0500 and 1 pl was sent to 'D' Coy to take over from CARRIER SECT. The remainder were kept in reserve awaiting the expected counter attack.</p> <p>In the evening of the 10th JULY the C.O. ordered 'C' Coy to move to ORCHARD as shown in APP during darkness. By daylight 'C' Coy had dug in in this area and at 0600 hrs a small party of enemy was seen ☉ Five were shot and the officer I/C surrendered.</p>	CNB
		0830	<p>'C' Coy spotted enemy tanks to their front ☉ One moved towards B Coy and was engaged with P.I.A.T. The tanks slowed down and turned</p>	CNB

			about, and went up in flames, whether from B Coys hit or arty fire which had been called for, they could NOT say ☉ The crew who crawled out were shot at by RFN LONG of 'C' Coy and two were hit ☉ A second tank approached to within 70 yards and machine gunned 'C' Coy area. This tank was also engaged by P.I.A.T. bombs but they missed. However it had the effect of making the tank withdraw. The tanks were then observed to be supported by Inf who appeared in front of 'C' Coy area at the far end of ORCHARD ☉ Rfn LONG shot two and was then wounded himself ☉ Cpl Lorimer with his section then led a bayonet charge through the orchard and killed five enemy. They then laid a smoke screen under cover of which their remaining tanks moved round to the Coys flank. One of these tanks came close to the Coys position and Rfn Brandon shot the tank commander through the head, as he was looking out of the CUPOLA. The tanks then withdrew.	CNB
		0900	Brig. C.M. Barber directed that the 2 G.H. would relieve the 9th Cameronians as soon as possible. By this time Lt Col R.M. Villiers had recovered from his wound and resumed comd of the Bn again.	CNB
		1030	Reports from B & C Coys showed that another counter attack was developing on this front. This attack was allowed to come to within 100 yds of 'C' Coy position when it was engaged by all 'C' Coys weapons. The attack was repulsed and the main body withdrew leaving 4 secs dead. Lt Quinn who was now comd 'C' Coy reported a minimum of 120 enemy killed and wounded in the orchard. This was confirmed by the 2 GLASGOW HIGHLANDERS when they took over. None of the enemy got past 'C' Coy positions.	CNB
		1230	2 G.H. recce party arrived area and shown over coy locations.	CNB
		1430	2 GH arrived and took over Bn area. During the hand over all Bn posns continued to be heavily shelled. In the Bn area 5 enemy tanks (3 MK VI and 2 MK IV or V) were knocked out and a minimum of 160 Huns killed or wounded ☉ 2 off and 10 OR were taken prisoner some of which were handed over to 2 G.H.	CNB
		1500	Bn now in pos. at ROCRENIL 980658 in reserve to 2 G.H. at ETTERVILLE. During remainder of day enemy continued to engage Bn area with mortar and shell fire ☉ Casualties still being inflicted.	
		1900	Order received from 46 Bde HQ that Bde was being relieved by 4 CDN Bde.	APP A/5. CNB
	12	0250	4th ESSEX Regt arrived Bn area and commenced to take over area.	CNB
		0330	Coys being relieved and making own way to embussing point.	CNB
		0440	Bn relief complete and en route for area SECQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN rest area.	CNB

		0800	Bn now in rest area. Casualties during this action: Killed Capt Evans; wounded MAJOR S. BINGLEY, Major R. DOWNIE; Capt Baldwin, Capt COOK RACHD, Lt Kirby; Lt Muir; Lieut Barnes. Other ranks 12 killed; 101 wounded; 26 missing. Message from Bde saying No move before evening of 15/16 JULY, at which time Bn would move to F.A.A. for next attack S.W. of BARON ☉ To come under comd of 12 Corps for this operation. Major Mullen H.L.I. arrived Bn and assumed second in command.	CNB CNB
SECQUEVILLE- EN-BESSIN	13		Bn located rest area. 2I/C recce F.A.A. MOUEN 9465 for forthcoming op.	CNB
	14		Bn still located SECQUEVILLE ☉ Major TWEEDALE-HOLLAND returned to Bn and assumed comd of 'C' Coy as Bn was now down to 3 Coy organisation, "A", "C", "D" Coys.	CNB APP A/6
		2300	46(H) Inf Bde O.O. No 3 for Op. GREENLINE received.	
	15		Location same	CNB
		1100	Coy comd at briefing conference Bde HQ.	
		1115	46(H) Inf Bde move order No 3 received. 46(H) Inf Bde Adm Order No 3 received and movement inst. FWD of F.A.A.	APP A/6A APP A/6/B CNB
		2000	Marching party left area for MOUEN concentration area.	CNB
		2045	Bn Veh party left for Area MOUEN.	CNB
		2300	Bn arrived area MOUEN.	CNB
MOUEN	16	0400	1 coy ordered to "STAND TO" to be prepared to assist 227 Bde, at 30 mins notice to move.	CNB
		0900	Order received that 30 mins notice Now cancelled. During night of 16th area was bombed by enemy planes. No casualties inflicted. The operation as a whole had proceeded to plan and 2 GH had captured ESQUAY thus allowing 44 INF Bde to pass through to their obj FORTH and MELROSE. 227 Bde reached FORTH with 2 coys GORDONS on FORTH and 2 coys on MELROSE ☉ Codeword KNIFE (EVRECY) proved to be a harder task and 158(W) Bde who were responsible for capturing it were halted 800 yds EAST of OBJ.	CNB
MOUEN	17		Bn location same; still in Bde reserve.	
		1430	Bn recce party left for GRAINVILLE-SUR-ODON to take over from 1/5 LANC FUSILIERS of 43 DIV 1/5 EAST LANCS.	CNB
		1600	Bn commander to arrive in GRAINVILLE and went to areas as shown in APP A/7.	A/7 CNB
		1630	Hand over complete. Adm. Inst No4 received from 46(H) Inf Bde.	A/8 CNB
GRAINVILLE- SUR-ODON			Bn still located GRAINVILLE ☉ At 2330 hrs 17 JULY enemy planes bombed area, and inflicted casualties on Carrier Pl, 1 OR Killed.	

	19		Location still same ⊙ 7 SEAFORTH now located LE VOLTRU with 2 GH in area MONDRAINVILLE ⊙ Remainder of 15(S) Div still on obj of OP. GREENLINE.	CNB
	20	0600	Situation unchanged. Bn now carrying out training on lessons learned during recent OPs.	CNB
	21	0600	Situation still unchanged. 227 & 44 Bdes now located NORTH & SOUTH of CHEUX respectively.	CNB
	22	0600 1800	Situation unchanged on Bn front. Message from Bde HQ for Recce parties to be prepared to move at 1100 hrs 23 JULY. C.O. at Bde 'O' Gp, when orders for move to area ST PAUL DU VERNAY 7470 were received.	APP A/9
	23	1130 1730 1900	Situation unchanged. Bn moved off from GRAINVILLE for area ST PAUL DU VERNAY 7470. Bn arrived area ST PAUL DU VERNAY and concentrated in WOODS to the EAST.	CNB
ST PAUL DU VERNAY	24		Bn still concentrated in WOODS at ST PAUL DU VERNAY and generally resting.	CNB
	25		Bn location same ⊙ All coy comds and specialist Pl comds at Brig CM Barber conference on use of INF weapons.	CNB
	26	1300 2000 2200	C.O. at 'O' Gp for move to relieve 44 INF Bde in area WEST of CAUMONT ⊙ Bn to relieve 6 RSF during 26 JULY. Bn left for area VILLENEUVE 694591. Bn arrived area VILLENEUVE and commenced taking over Bn area from 6 RSF ⊙ Complete by 2345 hrs.	APP A/11 CNB CNB
VILLENEUVE 694591	27	0600	Bn located VILLENEUVE ⊙ Situation normal during night 26/27 ⊙ No enemy activity on Bn front ⊙ For coy localities see APP A/10.	CNB A/10
	28	0600	Situation unchanged ⊙ One recce patrol out from 2330-0300 27/28 to discover if any enemy in area of Houses at LE BOUGY. For patrol activity see APP A/12. During day 28 snipers were reported in D Coy area and Bn snipers were sent out to deal with this situation. The situation was under control until 1730 hours when enemy about 12 strong forced one of our OPs to withdraw. One sec was sent out to clear enemy but they were too strong and after a sharp encounter our sec withdrew leaving two casualties ⊙ A number of unsuccessful attempts were made to bring in our casualties by Capt GL Allan and a stretcher bearing party ⊙ Snipers were also sent out but could NOT be cleared. At 2000 Bde ordered this area to be cleared before last light.	CNB

		2015	Order received from 46(H) Bde for harbour Party to R.V. at Bde HQ to recce New area LE MESNIL 718643. This area was occupied by 44 Bde. Bn being relieved by 6 R.S.F. to take place immediately.	CNB
		2100	6 RSF recce party arrived.	
		2240	'D' & 'C' Coy commenced to clear ORCHARD 693593 where snipers located.	CNB
		2300	Coys of 6 RSF arrived Bn area and hand over taking place.	CNB
	29	0145	Bn on move to area LE MESNIL and arrived 0530.	
		0830	Bn under command 227(H) Inf Bde for op "BLUECOAT". C.O. at 227 Bde for 'O' GP re OP. BLUECOAT. Bn to capture SEPT VENTS to enable remainder of 15(S) Div to pass through ☉ Remainder of day spent in recce by Coy comd.	CNB
		1100	'O' GP held at OP in CAUMONT. A & B fwd coys in reserve C & D. See APP A/13 for obj.	A/13 CNB
		2300	'H' hour NOT yet known. Hy bomber effort expected, therefore weather deciding factor. 46(H) Inf Bde OP instr No3 OP BLUECOAT received.	APP A/14 CNB
LE MESNIL	30	0230	Bn left area LE MESNIL for area 702594 which is F.U.P. for attack on SEPT VENTS PHASE I OP BLUECOAT.	CNB
		0310	Bn arrived F.U.P. at 0410. H hour for attack 0700 hrs.	CNB
		0530	C.O. 'O' GP. called and final pts cleared up.	CNB
		0704	A & B coys crossed S.L. for attack on SEPT VENTS ☉ As soon as they crossed S.L. enemy mortar and ARTY opened on them and a number of casualties were inflicted.	CNB
		0900	Coys moving fwd to obj ☉ Enemy opposition in SEPT VENTS.	
		1000	Coys still pushing Fwd with 'A' Coy on obj, 'D' Coy on left about 500 yds NORTH of obj, coy comd Major P. CLARKE being injured and evacuated. Lt Russell assumed comd of Coy ☉ 'B' Coy held up about 300 yds NORTH of CHURCH in SEPT VENTS ☉ C Coy out of communication with Bn. During this op a number of A/TK mines were encountered and this held up the adv of 4 TK Gren Gds and they suffered a number of cas. in TKs knocked out. This also held up wheels and tracks of the Bn from adv. R.E's and FLAILS were used to clear the area and at 1100 hrs Bn wheels moved Fwd to Edge of SEPT VENTS. In the meantime 'B' Coy who were held up commenced mopping up area CHURCH with SUP of GREN GDS ☉ A Coy moved fwd to occupy D Coys original obj. Also in communication with 'C' Coy who were on their obj.	CNB
		1230	Area finally cleared and Phase II Op Bluecoat now in progress. See APP A15 for coy LOCALITIES.	A/15

		1930	Prisoners of War taken in this OP in and around Bn area numbered 3 off and 148 ORs of 452 INF REGT.	
		2100	Bn ordered to move to area ORCH 693534 to be prepared to counter attack obj gained in PHASE II by 2 GH. Bn now under comd 46(H) Bde. Recce gp left for area ORCH 693534 and C.O. decided Bn would concentrate for night in area 690538.	CNB
		2230	Bn commenced arriving in new area.	CNB CNB
	31	0600	Situation unchanged ☉ C.O. decided to move Bn to ORCH 693524 to enable Bn to counter attack area occupied by 2 GH.	CNB
		1030	Bn now concentrated in area ORCH 693524.	CNB
		1152	Probably one coy required to move to ST MARTIN DES BESAGES further instrs by L.O. ☉ 11 armd now in ST MARTIN. This message was cancelled by L.O. at 1210 when 2 coys to area LAUNAY 6851 and possibly 2 coys to centre of ST MARTIN when cleared by 11 ARMD ☉ From then onwards situation continually changed and orders were varied ☉ At 1430 hrs 'D' Coy moved to ST MARTIN and remainder of Bn concentrated LAUX HOMMES 682517.	CNB
		1900	Bn given permission to remain concentrated in area LAUX HOMMES with task of counter attacking 2 GH positions. Casualties during JULY see APP A/16	APP A/16 A/16 CNB